

From: Don Nguyen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 12:54am
Subject: AntiTrust settlement

This is regarding the Microsoft settlement. I believe that the settlement has no teeth to it. This will allow Microsoft to do business as usual. Any settlement should actually remedy the situation instead of letting Microsoft continue to control the software market while only paying lip service to being fair to competitors. Although I currently use Microsoft's operating system and applications, it is not entirely a "free" choice. Since Microsoft controls the market, I am forced to use their products so that I can be compatible with everyone else. (And with over 90 percent of the market, they obviously DO control the market and enjoy a monopoly.) This would not entirely be a negative thing IF Microsoft offered the best product out there. Microsoft continues to offer products that have serious bugs and do not work as advertised. I have been a dissatisfied user of their products since MS Windows 3.0 was offered. Since they control the market, the incentive to offer the most innovative AND stable products does not exist for them. They can offer a substandard product with the knowledge that most of their customers will eventually be FORCED to upgrade to the latest Microsoft product. Not only can Microsoft accomplish this without suffering any consequences, but they can then raise prices on the newest products to any level they wish. Consumers should have a better choice. Some viable competition in the software and operating systems markets would give us that. Do NOT let Microsoft off this time with just a slap in the wrist! They have gotten away with this too many times. The previous antitrust actions should be a lesson. Microsoft will not willingly comply with any settlement. (They may follow the letter of the law while spitting in the face of the spirit.) The settlement is a farce. Microsoft will be able to control their monopoly for a long time in the future if the settlement is not made stronger. The only people who benefit from this settlement are those at Microsoft. Not consumers. Do NOT let Microsoft fool you - they do NOT have the best interests of consumers in mind. They want to offer the least innovation and the least amount of stability for the highest price that they can get away with. Microsoft should be punished for their abuse of their monopoly. Thank you.

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